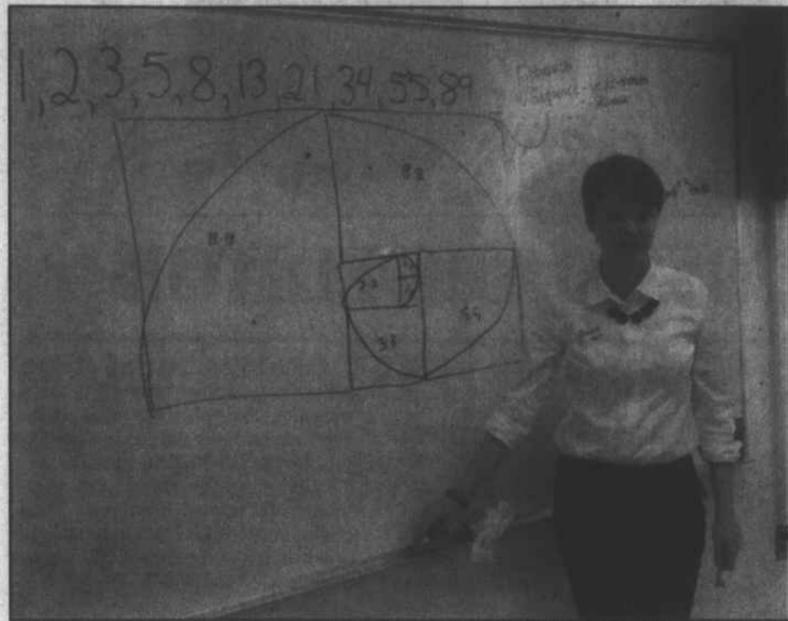




Wyland Shrewsbury, left, and Tinashe Williams work together on the computer during the Women in STEAM conference held at Atkins High School on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Photos by Tevin Stinson



Volunteer Emma Ambrosious leads a math lesson during the Women in STEAM Conference held at Atkins High School on Saturday, Nov. 19.



Wake Forest Baptist Health pediatric specialist Dr. Karyn Gordon encourages students to follow their dreams during the Women in STEAM Conference held at Atkins High School on Saturday, Nov. 19.

**STEAM**

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a decade, Gordon said there are still times where patients look at her and think she isn't qualified.

For example, Gordon described one incident where a child was suffering from meningitis and needed blood to be drawn. With little time left before the situation became life threatening, Gordon said the mother of the child refused to let her draw the child's blood.

Luckily, Gordon ignored the mother's threats to take her to court and saved the child's life.

"It doesn't happen as often as it use to, but people look at me and don't think I have the ability to do it," she continued. "Sometimes you want to turn around and start crying because it hurts; but you have to stand up and take it."

"Sometimes it can make your armor that much stronger and make you more determined to prove them wrong," she said.

After the panel discussion, students had the opportunity to sharpen their STEAM skills by doing several hands-on experiments. While completing a science experiment, Atkins High School sophomore Kapla Horton

said after listening to Gordon she is now even more excited about following her dream to become a chemotherapist.

"It inspired me to keep pushing," said Horton. "I know there will be people who will have their doubts, but after listening to Dr. Gordon, I have more confidence in myself and my abilities."

Atkins freshman Wyland Shrewsbury, who wants to become an OG/GYN specialist, said it felt good to be around people who have similar interests as her.

After the hands-on experiments, students sat down with representatives from local colleges and universities to discuss internships. Representatives from North Carolina Central University, Forsyth Tech, Winston-Salem State University and a number of local businesses were all on hand during the conference.

While the students were excited about all the events included in this year's conference, arguably the most excited person in the building was event coordinator Monika Vasili. Vasili, who is a science teacher at Atkins, said when she started the conference in 2012, her goal was to show girls that they are just as smart and talent-

ed as boys.

"Growing up in a communist country, I understand all too well what it's like having someone say you can't do something," she continued. "So when I came to Atkins and seen how many girls wanted to go into the science and medical fields, I wanted them to know they have my support."

Although the conference has ended, the work to inspire young girls to follow their dreams is an ongoing process. To ensure they are on the right path to reach their goals, every student who attended this year's conference will be paired with a "big sister" who will help them get involved locally with STEAM.

When discussing the future of the conference, Vasili said she hopes to see the event continue to grow. She said next year her goal is to fill the entire auditorium with girls from the area who want to pursue jobs and careers in STEAM.

"The growth over the last four years has just been amazing. I can't wait to see how many girls show up next year," she said. "This conference is all about building confidence and connections. Once you have those things, the sky is the limit."

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**SEPTIC TANK HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE**

**DO:**

- Have your septic tank pumped out by an experienced Septic Pumper every 3-5 years. Clean out pump tanks every 6-10 years.
- Inspect the sanitary "tee" outlet and replace as necessary. Clean the filter every 3 years.
- Regularly check ALL toilets and plumbing fixtures for any leaks. Make repairs as soon as possible. Water leaks can cause premature septic failures.

**DONT:**

- Wash ALL household laundry on the weekends. Wash one load per day.
- Use large amounts of Clorox as it may kill beneficial bacteria.
- Drive over septic system areas.
- Place structures within 5 feet of any part of your septic system.

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**Tuesday, November 29**  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
★ Forsyth Tech  
Mazie Woodruff Campus  
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Winston-Salem

Questions? Walter Farabee: 747-7059  
City-County Planning Department  
www.cityofws.org/planning or email walterf@cityofws.org

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Saturday and Sunday matinees @ 3pm

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Music Director - Tony Gillion

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Children Under 15 - \$15**

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The North Carolina Black Repertory Company receives operational funding from The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. This project was supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.